
Concord
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Concord-Carlisle
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Response Protocols

August 21, 2020



POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE

Self-isolation for COVID-19 positive cases is a minimum of 10 days

Most people who test positive and have a relatively mild illness will need to stay in self-isolation for at least 14 days. People who test positive can resume public activities after 14 days and once they have:

- gone for 3 days without a fever (and without taking fever-reducing medications like Tylenol or Ibuprofen); and
- experienced improvement in other symptoms (for example, their cough has gotten much better); and
- **received clearance from public health authority contact tracers (the local board of health or Community Tracing Collaborative).**

Repeat testing prior to return is not recommended. Return to school should be based on time and symptom resolution.

Parents and Staff should notify the building principal immediately that the individual has tested positive for COVID-19. The building principals will notify: superintendent, public health nurse, school nurse, lead custodian.

If the individual was on school premises or used transportation, these areas will be cleaned and disinfected.

Elementary: Classroom will be notified of positive case by superintendent/building principal. Close contacts communicated by public health nurse.

Middle/High School: Close contacts communicated by public health nurse.

- Superintendent will notify each classroom of the staff or student
- As appropriate, superintendent will notify building or district of presence of COVID-19.

See SCHOOL CLOSURES

Close contacts of a positive COVID-19 case should be COVID PCR tested. For general guidance, DPH defines close contact as:

- Being within less than 6 feet of COVID-19 case for at least 10-15 minutes.

- Close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case while the case was symptomatic or within the 48 hours before symptom onset, OR
- Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

SYMPTOM SCREENING BEFORE SCHOOL HOURS

Staff will be required to complete an electronic symptom checker on a daily basis. Students in grades 9-12 will complete an electronic symptom screener daily. Parents for students in grades K-8 will complete the form daily.

Individuals must STAY HOME if you have any of the symptoms listed.

Below is the full list of symptoms for which caregivers should monitor their children, and staff should monitor themselves:^{2 3}

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

If staff or students have any of these symptoms,

- **must get a PCR test for active COVID-19 infection prior to returning to school.**
- **If negative, must remain home until symptom free for at least 24 hours**
- **If not tested, must remain home for 10 days since onset of symptoms and be fever free for 24 hours**
- **If positive, see above protocols**

SYMPTOMS IN SCHOOL

Students and Staff demonstrating the following symptoms in school will be considered a possible case of COVID:

- Fever (100.0° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache *when in combination with other symptoms*
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) *when in combination with other symptoms*

For students, a school staff member will call the school nurse's office. The student will be directed to the isolation room if appropriate. Parent/guardian will be called to pick student up from school immediately. See above protocol for symptomatic individuals.

For staff, the building principal or designee will be notified by the staff member. The staff member leaves the school immediately. See above protocol for symptomatic individuals.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

Student or staff tests positive for COVID-19

- Concord Public Health Nurse will determine those to be quarantined (entire class at elementary school, minimum of close contacts at middle and high school)
- Collaboration with the Concord health officials, superintendent, DESE and MDPH will indicate the need for a building or more substantial closure dependent on the number of close contacts, context of exposures, etc.
- See Positive COVID-19 Case Protocol
- Superintendent will notify each classroom of the staff or student

- As appropriate, superintendent will notify building or district of presence of COVID-19.
- Determine if short term school closure is required for cleaning and contact tracing in consultation with health officials, superintendent and DESE.

Presence of multiple cases in the school or district

1. If there is more than one confirmed COVID-19 case (students or staff) in the school at one time, or if there is a series of single cases in a short time span, school leaders and the superintendent should work with the local board of health to determine if it is likely that there is transmission happening in school.
2. When there is suspected in-school transmission *beyond one cohort or a small number of cohorts*, school and district leaders must consult with the local board of health as to proposed next steps. These steps could include, *for example*, making a decision to a) close part of the school or the entire school for a short time (e.g. 1-3 days) for an extensive cleaning or other facility mitigation, or b) close the school partially or fully for the longer duration of a 14-day quarantine period.
3. Should there be circumstances where there are multiple cases in multiple schools, school and district leaders must consult with the local board of health as to proposed next steps. These steps could include, *for example*, making a decision to a) shut down the district for a short time (e.g. 1-3 days) for an extensive cleaning or other facility mitigation, or b) shut down the district for the longer duration of a 14-day quarantine period.
4. **Before a final decision is made on a school or district closure, the superintendent must consult with DESE for further guidance.**
5. If the decision is made to close for some number of days, the school and/or district should send clear information and instructions to families and staff:
 - Informing them that it is possible COVID-19 is being transmitted in the school and/or district
 - Noting that there may be more potential cases that are not yet symptomatic
 - Recommending students quarantine and not have contact with others
 - Reminding families of the importance of not having contact with higher-risk individuals (e.g., grandparents)
 - Reminding families of the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which to monitor
 - Ensuring that remote learning is immediately provided to all students

Community Spread of COVID-19

Each Wednesday, the Department of Public Health releases its [Weekly COVID-19 Public Health Report](#) that contains critical metrics for each municipality. A color-coded indication posted for each municipality calculated on a rolling two-week basis.

- Red will designate communities with more than 8 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents.
- Yellow will designate communities that have more than 4 and up to 8 COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents.
- Green will designate communities that have 4 or fewer COVID-19 cases per 100,000 residents.
- Unshaded will designate communities with small populations and fewer than 5 cases within the last 14 days.

Because the impact of the virus is local, the concept of this particular COVID-19 health/safety designation is focused on the municipal level.

Following the release of these updated metrics, we are providing districts and schools with initial guidance on how to interpret them for school settings. These guidelines were developed in consultation with our infectious disease physicians and other public health experts.

Based on these updated weekly COVID-19 metrics, DESE's guidance for how these data should be used to inform each school and district's learning model is as follows:

| New color-coded metric* | DESE expectation for learning model |
|---|---|
| RED Average daily cases per 100,000 is greater than 8 | Remote |
| YELLOW Average daily cases per 100,000 is between 4 - 8 | Hybrid OR Remote (if extenuating circumstances) |
| GREEN Average daily cases per 100,000 is less than 4 | Full-time in-person OR Hybrid (if extenuating circumstances) |
| UNSHADED Fewer than 5 total cases over the past 14 days. Generally, this is for communities with small populations and very few cases. | |

*Measured as a 14-day rolling average and will be reported weekly as part of the online DPH dashboard

While average daily cases per 100,000 over a two-week period is the metric that determines the color-coding for each community, districts and schools should also

monitor whether cases are increasing or decreasing as compared to the prior period. The local test positivity rate also remains an important metric to monitor. In consultation with local boards of health, districts should consider whether these additional metrics and underlying data may indicate other concerning trends.

State-wide regression to a previous reopening phase

If Massachusetts moves back into a prior phase, DESE (in consultation with the Massachusetts COVID-19 Command Center) will communicate with school districts and schools to determine whether in-person school should continue.

TESTING SITES

Massachusetts Department of Public Health
COVID-19 Testing Sites

[Interactive Map](#)

[PDF List of Testing Sites](#)

Emerson Hospital Urgent Care

[Hudson and Littleton](#)

Given our relationship with them, we know the lab they use can turn test results around in 24-48 hours typically.

REFERENCES

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings, July 17, 2020

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Information and Guidance for Persons in Isolation due to COVID-19, March 11, 2020

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Information and Guidance for Persons in Quarantine due to COVID-19, March 11, 2020

Center for Disease Control

Guidance for School and Childcare, last updated July 23, 2020

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Guidance for Districts and Schools on Interpreting DPH COVID-19 Metrics, August 11, 2020